



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 7, 2000

H.R. 3292 **Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge Establishment Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 24, 2000

H.R. 3292 would direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to establish the Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge on about 36,500 acres in Louisiana. The bill would authorize the agency to acquire this acreage and manage the new refuge as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. For the purposes of acquiring, developing, and operating the refuge, the bill would authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, and based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3292 would cost about \$30 million over the next five to seven years to acquire and manage all of the acreage for the new refuge. (\$500,000 has already been appropriated for this purpose.) After the refuge has been established, we estimate that the agency would spend about \$500,000 annually on operations, and to make payments to local governments under the Refuge Revenue Sharing Act, assuming availability of the necessary amounts.

H.R. 3292 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no significant impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.